

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 262254

50

ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 ABF-01 IO-10

NSC-05 NSCE-00 /035 R

DRAFTED BY PA:CWBRAY;IO:SMENTER

APPROVED BY PA - CAROL C. LAISE

A/BF-R .W.MURRAY

PA - VRALLAN

IO - WBBUFFUM

M - LDBROWN

S/S:JPMOFFAT

----- 011741

O 272344Z NOV 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 262254

TOSEC 572

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJECT:FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
YEAR.

THIS IS AN ACTION MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSA-
DORS LAISE AND BUFFUM. BASSA-

1. PROBLEM. TO ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE
BRANCH FOR COORDINATING AND DIRECTING THE 1975 NATIONAL
OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN THE UNITED
STATES.

2. BACKGROUND. IN 1972 THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTED A
RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING 1975 AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR
(IWY). IT CALLED ON MEMBER STATES TO EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOW-
ING THEMES:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 262254

-- TO PROMOTE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.

-- - BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.

-- TO ENSURE THE FULL INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE

"TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT" BY EMPHASIZING WOMEN'S RESPONSY-

BILITIES AND ROLES IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

-- TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND COOPERATION AMONG STATES AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF WORLD PEACE."

3. AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES IS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN MEXICO CITY NEXT JUNE. IO HAS THUS FAR TAKEN THE LEAD TO ASSUME ITS USUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING AND DIRECTING US PARTICIPATION IN THAT CONFERENCE.

4. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT NIXON ISSUED A PROCLAMATION IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR WHICH DESIGNATED 1975 AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN THE US, THERE IS AS YET NO AGENCY OR INDIVIDUAL FULLY IN CHARGE OF WHAT IS RAPIDLY BECOMING A MAJOR NATIONAL EVENT. WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS ARE RESPONDING TO WHAT THEY SEE AS THE CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR WITH GREAT INTEREST -- EVEN INTENSITY -- ACROSS THE COUNTRY. INDEED, WITH FINAL ADOPTION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO OUR CONSTITUTION ALMOST AT HAND, IWY HAS BECOME THE NEW RALLYING POINT FOR AMERICAN WOMEN.

5. THE INTEREST BEING SHOWN IN IWY HAS IN GREAT MEASURE BEEN STIMULATED BY THE EFFORTS OF THE US CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED LARGELY AT DEPARTMENTAL INITIATIVE WITH CU FUNDING IN 1973. IT IS DIRECTED BY A FORMER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, MISS RUTH BACON AND HAS DONE GOOD WORK IN MOTIVATING AND PLANNING THE OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

6. IT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR, AS A RECENT LETTER TO YOU FROM SENATORS PERCY AND SYMINGTON (TAB B) EMPHASIZES, THAT THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT WISHES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 262254

ESTABLISH SOME TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. THE PERCY-SYMINGTON LETTER ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE STRENGTH OF THE FEELING WE HAVE DETECTED AMONG WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS IN FAVOR OF THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS ARE FULLY AWARE THAT A SIMILAR POSITION EXISTED TO COORDINATE NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF WORLD POPULATION YEAR IN 1974, AND THAT A NATIONAL COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE PRESIDENT AS WELL. ED MARTIN'S RECENT VISIBILITY AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE HAS REINFORCED THE INTENSITY OF THE BELIEF AMONG WOMEN THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -- AND PARTICULARLY THE DEPARTMENT OF

STATE -- NEED TO ACCORD EQUAL STATUS TO IWY.

7. WHILE \$330,000 OF AN ESTIMATED TOTAL BUDGET OF \$500,000, AND FOUR POSITIONS (TWO EACH FROM STATE AND USIA), HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMMITTED TO OBSERVANCE OF IWY BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, HEW, JUSTICE, INTERIOR, COMMERCE AND

TRANSPORTATION, AND USIA, NO DOMESTIC CABINET AGENCY HAS EVIDENCED ANY INTEREST IN ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF THE YEAR. FOR THIS REASON, BUT ALSO BECAUSE WOMEN'S GROUPS WILL CLEARLY NOT SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS, WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO PRACTICAL POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE TO YOUR AGREEING TO CREATE A SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. WHILE THIS WILL INEVITABLY SUBJECT THE DEPARTMENT TO CROSS-CURRENTS WITHIN THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, ED MARTIN AND PHIL CLAXTON SEEM TO HAVE WEATHERED THEIR RESPECTIVE STORMS AND TO HAVE PROVIDED USEFUL LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY AND THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

8. WE BELIEVE, BUT ARE NOT YET CERTAIN, THAT OTHER CABINET AGENCIES CAN BE INDUCED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS TO STAFF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT'S OFFICE. WE KNOW THAT MRS. ANN ARMSTRONG, OPERATING FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, WOULD BE PREPARED TO LEND HER INFLUENCE TO SECURING THE BALANCE OF THE ESTIMATED BUDGET. THIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT WOULD OCCUPY ONE OF THE TWO TEMPORARY POSITIONS ALREADY COMMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 262254

9. IF YOU AGREE TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT, WE WILL SUBMIT FOR YOUR APPROVAL A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION.

10. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT THAT HE ESTABLISH A "NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 1975." A SIMILAR COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF WORLD POPULATION YEAR. AGAIN, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS ARE WATCHING CLOSELY TO INSURE THAT IWY IS ACCORDED PARALLEL TREATMENT.

11. A MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT RECOMMENDING THAT HE ESTABLISH SUCH A COMMISSION, TOGETHER WITH A DRAFT EXECUTIVE ORDER, IS ATTACHED AT TAB A. WE WOULD ENVISAGE THAT YOUR SPECIAL ASSISTANT AND STAFF WOULD ALSO PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION.

12. WHILE IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS WE WOULD HAVE SUBMITTED A MEMORANDUM CONTAINING ORGANIZATIONAL OPTIONS FOR YOUR APPROVAL, WE FRANKLY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IN THE

POLITICAL CONTEXT DESCRIBED ABOVE, THERE ARE ANY REALISTIC OPTIONS. WE CONSIDERED, BUT DISCARDED AS INADEQUATE, ASSIGNING SUCH RESPONSIBILITY EITHER TO IO OR PA. WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS ARE WATCHING CLOSELY AND ARE CERTAIN TO REACT STRONGLY AND NEGATIVELY IF "THEIR YEAR" IS ACCORDED LESS FAVORABLE STATUS THAN WORLD POPULATION YEAR. ON THE PLUS SIDE, HOWEVER, IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT IN ACTING VIGOROUSLY TO ACCEPT LEADERSHIP WITH RESPECT TO IWY THE DEPARTMENT COULD DERIVE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT (IN THE "CONSENSUS" CONTEXT) FOR FOREIGN POLICY.

13. THIS MEMORANDUM HAS BEEN READ AND APPROVED BY DEAN BROWN WHO CONCURS IN THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. THAT YOU APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TEMPORARY POSITION OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING (A) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 262254

THE US PARTICIPATION IN THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE AND (B) THE DOMESTIC OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN COOPERATION WITH A NATIONAL COMMISSION AND THE US CENTER.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

B. THAT YOU SIGN THE ATTACHED MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT, WHICH COVERS A DRAFT EXECUTIVE ORDER, RECOMMENDING THAT HE ESTABLISH A NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 1975. (NOTE: TO REDUCE TELEGRAPHIC WORKLOAD WE ARE NOT TRANSMITTING THE DRAFT EXECUTIVE ORDER. IT HAS BEEN CLEARED BY THE LEGAL ADVISOR AND WE WILL ATTACH IT TO THE FINAL VERSION OF THE MEMO TO THE PRESIDENT, IF YOU DECIDE TO SEND IT, WHEN WE SUBMIT THE MEMO TO YOU FOR SIGNATURE.)

ATTACHMENTS:

TAB A - MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

TAB B - LETTER FROM SENATORS PERCY AND SYMINGTON

TAB A

THE FOLLOWING IS A MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER.

SUBJECT: NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

1. PROBLEM. THERE IS A NEED, WHICH IS INCREASINGLY PRES-

SING, FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH SOME MECHANISM TO COORDINATE AND DIRECT THE 1975 NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN THIS COUNTRY.

2. BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS. IN 1972 THE UNITED NATIONS PROCLAIMED 1975 AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (IWY) AND CALLED UPON ALL MEMBER STATES TO CONDUCT AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAM OF NATIONAL OBSERVANCE. AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES IS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN MEXICO CITY NEXT JUNE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 06 STATE 262254

3. IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, PRESIDENT NIXON PROCLAIMED 1975 AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES AND CALLED FOR FULL NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF IT, INCLUDING BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS.

4. INTEREST IN IWY IS WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE AMONG WOMEN'S GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THESE GROUPS ARE ACUTELY AWARE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTED ITSELF, FOR EXAMPLE, TO WORLD POPULATION YEAR IN 1974 AND ARE WATCHING CLOSELY TO SEE WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION MAKES A SIMILAR COMMITMENT TO THE OBSERVANCE OF IWY. INDEED, THERE IS BEGINNING TO BE SOME CRITICISM OF THE ABSENCE OF ANY OVERT PREPARATIONS IN THIS REGARD.

5. I AM ESTABLISHING IN MY OFFICE THE POSITION OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR WITH THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF COORDINATING THE US PARTICIPATION IN THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE, BUT WITH THE SUBSIDIARY PURPOSE OF HELPING TO COORDINATE THE NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF IWY. I ANTICIPATE THAT THIS PERSON WOULD HAVE A SMALL STAFF, TO WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND USIA HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED FOUR POSITIONS.

- - -

6. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR YOU TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 1975 FOR THE PURPOSES OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHED DRAFT EXECUTIVE ORDER. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AMONG WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A COMMISSION, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT WOULD BE SEEN TO PARALLEL THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE ESTABLISHED IN CONNECTION WITH WORLD POPULATION YEAR.

7. THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, HEW, JUSTICE, INTERIOR, COMMERCE AND TRANSPORTATION HAVE COMMITTED \$330,000 OF AN ESTIMATED TOTAL BUDGET OF \$500,000 FOR SUCH A COMMISSION. OTHER AGENCIES HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THIS TENTATIVE BUDGET.

8. RECOMMENDATION. I RECOMMEND THAT YOU SIGN THE

ATTACHED EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 1975.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 07 STATE 262254

TAB B

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER SENT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM SENATORS PERCY AND SYMINGTON DATED NOVEMBER 19, 1974.

2. DEAR MR. SECRETARY: AS WE APPROACH 1975, THERE IS INCREASING CONCERN THAT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IS IN TROUBLE. PLAGUED BY LIMITED RESOURCES, LACK OF STAFF SUPPORT, AND THE ONUS OF GENERAL SECOND-CLASS STATUS, THE PREPARATIONS FOR BOTH THE YEAR AND THE CONFERENCE HAVE SUFFERED CONTINUING DISARRAY. PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR THE CONFERENCE HAVE YET TO BE DEVELOPED.

3. TAKING A CUE FROM THE POPULATION AND FOOD CONFERENCES, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR NEEDS A STRONG UNITED STATES COORDINATOR, SOMEONE COMPARABLE TO A PHILANDER CLAXTON OR AN AMBASSADOR EDWIN MARTIN. ON BEHALF OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING:

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
AMERICAN FREEDOM FROM HUNGER FOUNDATION
CENTER OF CONCERN
DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION PROBLEMS - UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS
NATIONAL BOARD OF YWCA OF THE UNITED STATES
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROF. WOMEN'S CLUBS, INC.
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN

PLANNED PARENTHOOD - WORLD POPULATION
POPULATION CRISIS COMMITTEE
POPULATION INFORMATION PROGRAM, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
POPULATION INSTITUTE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 08 STATE 262254

RACHEL CARSON TRUST FOR THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT
SOROPTIMISTS INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS
WOMEN UNITED FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
WOMEN'S EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
MS. MARION PARKS, OF NORTH AMERICAN COMMISSION OF NGOS
CONCERNED WITH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
MRS. BARBARA SPRUNGLI, OF U.S. COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

4. WE SUGGEST THAT A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR BE APPOINTED WITH
SUFFICIENT STAFF SUPPORT TO COORDINATE ALL U.S. EFFORTS
FOR THE YEAR AND THE CONFERENCE.

5. IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE ACTION, IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE
TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR AND FACILITATE
THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE. SINCE THE UNITED STATES
INITIATED THE IDEA OF AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CON-
FERENCE, WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO SEE TO IT THAT THE CON-
FERENCE AT LEAST HAS REQUISITE U.S. SUPPORT. THE APPOINT-
MENT OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT WOULD BE A CLEAR INDICATION
OF THAT SUPPORT AND, PERHAPS, AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF
THE WORLD AS WELL TO TAKE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR
SERIOUSLY AND ASSURE AN EFFECTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE CONFERENCE
AND YEAR.

6. SINCERELY, CHARLES H. PERCY, UNITED STATES SENATOR AND
STUART SYMINGTON, UNITED STATES SENATOR. INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE262254
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PA:CWBRAV;IO:SMENTER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740345-0200
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741186/abbrzadw.tel
Line Count: 355
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR.
TAGS: AORG
To: PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005